Perspective, the author tells us, is easy; yet surprisingly few artists are aware of the simple rules that make it so. This easy-to-follow book — the first devoted entirely to clarifying the laws of perspective — remedies the situation. In it, the author uses over 250 simple line drawings to illustrate the concepts involved. Beginning with clear, concise, immediately applicable discussions of the horizon, vanishing point, and the crucial relationship of eye level to perspective drawing, you’ll learn how to place figures and objects in a drawing, depict interiors, create shade and shadows, and achieve all the other elements necessary for a successful perspective drawing. By repeatedly stressing important points, Mr. Norling teaches you to make them second-nature. Moreover, his approach is so simple and direct that no matter how little raw talent or experience you have, you will soon be able to apply these techniques almost instinctively. Mastery of perspective is a basic skill every artist must have. This simple, nontechnical guide will enable you to master its essentials in a relatively short time. Clear and concise, this book is an essential addition to any artist’s bookshelf.

Book Information

Series: Dover Art Instruction
Paperback: 224 pages
Publisher: Dover Publications (January 19, 1999)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0486404730
Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.8 x 8.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (183 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #11,164 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > Architecture > Methods & Materials #14 in Books > Arts & Photography > Study & Teaching #211 in Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing

Customer Reviews

For a book first published in 1939, Norling’s "Perspective Made Easy" is still the authority on perspective. This concise book contains in roughly 200 pages and 256 illustrations all you’ll ever need to know about perspective drawing. In twenty masterfully organized chapters, from simple to complex, the author explains the basics and not so basics of perspective drawing. He includes suggestions on how to make your drawings a lot simpler, drawing methods for observation and
space division, a Remember section at the end of each chapter in which he summarizes the most
important information and principles presented in that chapter, and a Problems section with
exercises that will help you apply what you just learned. One of the best rewards of this book comes
in its last chapters where the author covers perspective drawing for a great number of regular and
irregular figures like a sphere, a cone, ovals, circles, lamps, cars, etc. With this the author goes
many steps beyond all those other books out there that only teach you how to draw cubes and
square buildings. The book may be a bit repetitive at times, but this is not annoying at all, it just
makes the author sound as if he was teaching a class in school or college, and it helps you to easily
remember the most important information presented. After reading this book my understanding of
perspective and the perspective in my drawings have improved 100%. If you follow his teachings
and exercises you will learn how to determine the perspective you need to apply to your drawing,
whether you are drawing in the field or using photographs as a model, and you will soon start
making your drawings look solid, deep and proportionate. If you are only getting one book on
perspective, get this one.--Reviewed by M. E. Volmar

I bought this book because Andrew Loomis (Figure Drawing For All Its Worth) recommended it. I'm
glad I followed his advice. If you are going to own only one perspective book, then this is it.
However, if you’re an interior designer, architect, engineer or draftsman then looks elsewhere since
this book’s primary audiences are freehand artists. This is one of the few books out in the market
that exactly delivers what it says on the back cover. And it's a reprint from 1939! I’d give this book a
rating of more than 5.

I can highly recommend this handbook to anybody who likes to draw. Through small, easy to follow
steps, with illustrations for each step(!), this classic author makes this highly misunderstood topic
become CRYSTAL CLEAR! You can follow along, drawing each step, or just read through the book,
(like I did), and you will still find yourself applying these techniques that make your drawings much
more realistic and accurate looking. In the introduction, the author says that we should not FORCE
our drawings to fit into any rigid rules of perspective, but after reading this book, I find that I don’t
have to force the perspective rules, I can just subtly apply them as I go about my drawings. The
author has very nice, cute, and simple illustrations of his own, to show what he’s talking about in
each step of the process of understanding perspective correctly. This makes the book feel very
user-friendly. This book covers a lot of ground and information, but if you take your time and start at
the beginning, you will reap big results with your own improved drawings. Comparing price to benefit,
this is easily the best value of any art technique book that I have ever purchased. Buy with confidence, this book amazing!

Good, solid, workmanlike explanation of perspective, described step by step. Plain language, no wasted words. Clear drawings. Do the assignments, it’s like taking a class you’d pay $350 for. I’ve tried to learn perspective from other books, but they were too complicated. This is THE classic. Every illustrator needs it. I use this knowledge every day.

It’s funny that reviewers are saying that this book still holds up for being written in 1939, as if our eyeballs have evolved since then. Using easily understood language the book starts with the basics, and each chapter thereafter builds on these basics while adding new techniques and ideas. These topics are reinforced by a remember section at the end of each chapter, along with some problems to work out in your drawings. What’s useful is all the explanations are real world examples that you can see for yourself, like the height of the horizon and locating vanishing points. At the end of the book is a summary of all the topics covered, each topic is condensed to one sentence, talk about concise. This is the clearest book on any subject I’ve ever read.

As a representational painter I find that a sound knowledge of perspective is of paramount importance and I cannot blame modernist art enough for the damage it has done to generations of painters by ignoring and teaching to ignore perspective. Over the years I have collected an impressive number of books about perspective, from 15th century manuals to modern textbooks. All of them are fascinating but rather complex and tend to discourage the reader after a few chapters. Norling’s book, on the contrary, is beautifully simple without being superficial. It teaches the aspiring artist all the tricks with a simple language and without burdening him or her with exceedingly complicated rules and formulas. It is equally useful to the experienced artist that wants to refresh some difficult points. An honest book that delivers all that it promises, that is how to make perspective easy.

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